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SENATE MEMORIAL 28

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING BROAD-BASED ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION IN A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A STRATEGY TO REDUCE ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATES, IMPROVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, CREATE A CONTINUUM OF PREVENTIVE SERVICES AND SUPPORT ADOLESCENT PARENTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico continues to have a soaring teen birth rate; and

WHEREAS, the high birth rate for adolescents is of geographical and economic concern to many areas of the state and affects many areas of government; and

WHEREAS, education about parenting can help raise adolescent awareness about the lifetime implications of creating a new life; and

WHEREAS, health education and information can help a pregnant mother have a healthy infant; and

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1 WHEREAS, community support for young parents is vital to
2 help young parents raise a healthy child who meets
3 developmental and educational goals in a timely fashion and to
4 help the parents hold down jobs that pay a liveable wage; and

5 WHEREAS, the problems and consequences of adolescent
6 pregnancy cannot be addressed entirely within a single
7 governmental system or improved without a broad coalition of
8 points of view and contributions;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
11 convene a working group of representatives from the public
12 education department, the children, youth and families
13 department, the workforce solutions department, the human
14 services department, the New Mexico forum for youth, the
15 children's cabinet, the New Mexico teen pregnancy coalition and
16 county and local governments to develop a single, well-planned,
17 comprehensive strategy for reducing adolescent births; to
18 address the issue of unintended pregnancy; to improve
19 reproductive health outcomes for youth; and to develop a
20 continuum of prevention services to prevent adolescent
21 pregnancy and provide support to adolescent parents; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of
24 children, youth and families, the secretary of public
25 education, the secretary of workforce solutions and the

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1 secretary of human services; the directors or executive
2 directors of the New Mexico forum for youth, the children's
3 cabinet and the New Mexico teen pregnancy coalition; the chairs
4 of county commissions and boards of commissioners; and the
5 mayors of cities statewide.

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